



# City Connection

Volume 5, Number 8

MAY 2009

[www.huntsvilletx.gov](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov)

## Huntsville Public Library to Host Texas Reading Club

The Huntsville Public Library will host the annual Texas Reading Club, a program open to children and teens, this summer beginning June 1.

The program - which will follow the theme of "**Libraries: Deep in the Heart of Texas!**" - will continue at the library through July 31.

"This is the library's biggest children's program, and we have a lot to offer our participants this year," said Kim Mason, Huntsville Public Library Children's Coordinator. "Participants will meet Texas State Troopers, members of the Texas National Guard, take part in arts and crafts activities and attend shows at the Old Town Theatre. Participants also will receive a book donated by the Kiwanis Club while supplies last. We certainly want to encourage children and teens from around the community to participate in this event."

Additionally, Mason said program participants will meet and learn from community presenters including Dr. Karin Olsen Williams, a member of the Huntsville Independent School District Board of Trustees.

"Upon registration, participants will receive a complete schedule of events for activities we have scheduled through the end of July," Mason said.



• June 10	Dr. Fraizer Pediatric Dentist	2:00 pm
• June 12	Reading Wranglers (Old Town Theatre)	2:00 pm
• June 16	Crafts with Mary	2:00 pm
• June 17	Texas Army National Guard	2:00 pm
• June 24	Texas State Troopers	2:00 pm
• June 26	Texas Reading Roundup (Old Town Theatre)	2:00 pm
• June 30	H.A.R.T. Dramatic Interpretations	10:00 am
• July 1	Dr. Karin Olsen Williams Medical Doctor	2:00 pm
• July 8	Promenaders Square Dancers	2:00 pm
• July 10	Sourdough Cowboy (Old Town Theatre)	2:00 pm
• July 15	Huntsville Visitor's Center Local Family Fun	2:00 pm
• July 18	Reading Logs Due	Library closes at 5:00 pm
• July 21	Huntsville Pets with a Purpose	10:00 am
• July 31	Carnival at the West Hill Mall	5:00 pm

"In addition to the group activities, the Texas Reading Club participants will also be encouraged to keep an independent reading log. By the end of the program, they could earn a Texas Reading Club certificate and a T-shirt."

Registration for the Texas Reading Club will begin June 1 at the Huntsville Public Library and will continue throughout the summer.

For more information, contact the Huntsville Public Library at (936) 291-5472.

### Citizens of Huntsville

*Be a part of Democracy in Action! Your input is requested and respected!  
We invite you to visit our City facilities, attend Council meetings and take part  
in your community!*

## No speed limit reductions on Veterans, Smither, Etheredge

Following City Council approval of a Green Growth Package ordinance, the City of Huntsville is currently in the process of establishing Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV) routes throughout the city.

NEV's will not be allowed on major roadways including Veterans Memorial Parkway, Smither Drive and Col. Etheredge Boulevard. City routes where NEV's will be allowed are being designed on roadways with speed limits of 35 miles per hour or less.

"So many Elkins Lake residents are under the impression that the speed limits on Veterans Memorial, Smither Drive and Col. Etheredge Boulevard are going to be reduced, but that is a misconception," City Councilmember Charles Forbus said. "We are not going to reduce the speed limits on those roads to allow for NEV usage, so please do not be concerned about major changes on those roadways."

According to City Councilmember Lanny Ray, who presented the Green Growth Package with other council members, the creation of the NEV routes was never meant to alter the speed limits of Huntsville roads.

"The ordinance does not lower the speed limit on Veterans or on any other road," he said. "It directs the staff to come up with NEV routes and a plan for designating them. The plan would then be brought to Council for approval before implementation. There has been no motion or proposed action to reduce any speed limits."

Neighborhood Electric Vehicles, which are defined by the Texas Department of Transportation as four-wheeled, electric vehicles which travel between 20 and 25 miles per hour, are permitted for use by state law on roadways with posted speed limits of 35 miles per hour or less.

The vehicles are allowed to cross roadways with higher speed limits, but the vehicles are not meant to operate in such locations for any extended period.

As Ray stated, by law, NEV's are not golf carts and they are required to meet stringent state and national safety requirements.

The Green Growth Package suggested the increased use of NEV's as a means of reducing emissions in the Huntsville area.

## What is an NEV?

According to information released by the Texas Transportation Commission, a Neighborhood Electric Vehicle is a motor vehicle which:

1. Has four wheels;
2. Is a slow-moving vehicle, being able to attain a speed of more than 20 miles per hour but not more than 25 miles per hour;
3. Is not a golf cart, and;
4. Is originally manufactured to meet, and meets, the equipment requirements and safety standards established for "low speed vehicles" in Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 500 (49 C.F.R. §571.500).

As well, an NEV is required to be titled in order to be registered for operation on public roads.

For more information and a complete list of NEV requirements, visit:

<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/rules-regulations>.

Visit [www.huntsvilletx.gov](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov) for NEV route information and maps.



## 2009 Trash Bash Successful

The "Keep Huntsville and New Waverly Beautiful" Trash Bash event, now in its thirteenth year, was held on Saturday, March 21, and more than 196 tons of waste material were collected during the event.

Beginning at 7:30 a.m. on the day of the Trash Bash, a combined total of 508 vehicles checked through the trash lines at both the City Disposal and Recycling Facility and New Waverly locations.

Huntsville vehicles were directed through the back gate on Moffett Springs and through the disposal facility to drop off various items such as tires, appliances, metal or garbage.

By the end of the day, a total of 196.68 tons of waste material was collected at both locations which included 48 tons of tires, 18 tons of appliances and 130.68 tons of garbage.

According to information from the City of Huntsville Solid Waste Services Department, the amount of waste material collected in 2009 was 35.96 tons greater than the amount collected in 2008.

The garbage was loaded into semi-trucks and hauled to the Polk County Disposal Facility under contract with the City of Huntsville.

According to Esther Herklotz, City of Huntsville Solid Waste Services Superintendent, volunteers from the Walker County Proud Communities, Master Gardeners, American Legion Auxiliary, Adult Probation, Walker County Jail and the staff of the City of Huntsville Solid Waste Department assisted with the event.

Volunteers assisted by unloading the materials, stacking tires in two trailer rigs and helping to provide food to the volunteers and staff.

## City to remove sets of stop signs on Veterans Memorial, Robinson Creek

This month, the City of Huntsville Streets Department plans to remove three sets of stop signs from Veterans Memorial Parkway and Robinson Creek Parkway and to implement cautionary signage where the signs are removed.

According to David Welch, Street Services Superintendent, the north-south stop signs at the intersections of Veterans Memorial and Smither Drive, Veterans Memorial and Woodward Drive and Robinson Creek and Woodward will be completely removed by the end of the month of May.

The process of removing the stop signs began in late April, when Welch said he and his staff began adding several caution signs on Veterans Memorial, Smither Drive, Woodward Drive and Robinson Creek.

"Our goal is to bag the stop signs being removed by May 11, and we plan to remove them one to two weeks after that date," he said. "We're also planning on putting up warning signs, placing rumble strips on Veterans Memorial and possibly adding additional speed limit signs to the area to alert drivers to the changes.

"For example, in advance of the stop signs on Woodward and Smither, we will be putting up warning signs that say 'Cross Traffic Does Not Stop.' We will also be placing small signs under each of the stop signs on Smither and Woodward which will again indicate that cross traffic on Veterans Memorial does not stop at those intersections."

Welch said "Limited Sight Distance" signs and other indicators would also be placed on both Veterans Memorial and Robinson Creek.

"To me, the removal of these stop signs is a major change, but I think the implementation of the signs and rumble strips will make the transition go smoothly," Welch said.



## Budget update: Finance Department at work

The City of Huntsville Finance Department is currently in the process of completing the 2009-2010 budget, and the next three months will require focused work not only from the Finance Department, but from the City Council as well.

According to Winston Duke, City of Huntsville Director of Finance, the five- to six-month process of planning the budget takes both long-term and annual expenditures and revenues into consideration as well as possible grants and associated expenses.

As of late April, Duke said a final copy of the budget and accompanying tax rate was scheduled to be approved by City Council on August 25.

"When looking at a budget planning process, we generally work down from the [Huntsville Horizon] Comprehensive Plan to develop annual priorities to be included in the budget," Duke said. "The City Council sets goals for the year, and the individual departments set their budgets according to those goals. After departmental planning is complete, their goals are supposed to coincide with both the City Council's goals and the City Manager's goals for the year."

The process of planning the budget primarily includes two major types of expenditures – capital and operating. Supplemental expenditures and funds devoted to non-profit organizations affiliated with the City are considered part of the operating budget.

Capital expenditures refer to money spent on local projects which take place over a period longer than one fiscal year. Those projects could include improvements to local parks, utility infrastructures or other construction efforts. Every year, a five-year

### \$\$ Budget Calendar \$\$

*The dates below are subject to change based on departmental needs.*

**May 6:** Departmental budget goals due to Finance Department

**May 15:** City Council review of capital and other budget items

**May 22:** Budget to City Manager

**May 25:** Deadline for budget submissions from non-profit organizations

capital plan is reviewed, and projects approved for the next year are incorporated into the budget.

Operating expenditures are submitted as line-items or supplemental expenditures.

Line-items are simply the expenditures incurred by each department for one year of operation. During the budget planning process, each department is required to outline their estimated expenditures for the year and to include reasons for those expenditures.

Another budget component called supplemental expenditures refers to any additional cost to the City including new equipment, supplies or personnel.

Finally, funding requests from City-affiliated non-profit organizations including fine arts organizations and animal shelters are also factored into the budget.

The process of completing the budget continues this month as City Manager Bill Baine reviews the expenditures submitted by departments.

Additional pieces on the budget process, including more information on how tax rates are set, will be available in future installments of the *City Connection*.

### Recycling Day Statistics

On April 22, the City of Huntsville partnered with Sam Houston State University staff to collect various recyclables.

At the end of the day, 1,017 pounds of paper, 34 pounds of plastic, 265 pounds of newspaper, 333 pounds of cardboard, 50 pounds of magazines, and 5 pounds of cans were collected.

# Kid's Korner

## BICYCLE WORD SEARCH

D K A I R P R E S S U R E T R A U L  
 B O O N B I C Y C L E O G Q C A C B  
 T L F C E E G M J H W Z W D P R E S  
 H E A D L I G H T Y S L A D E P R G  
 S S A E K I B N I A T N U O M A E M  
 I Q N R O H W R S S X E F F B C F E  
 D S T R E E T W I W E H F E D H L C  
 E B R A K E S X N D W V L A C A E H  
 W E B U T R E N N I E D O M S I C A  
 A G D T S I L C Y C N C R L P N T N  
 L C R P L V E V O A H E N A G B O I  
 K U Y I P D V D H F P I D A I Q R C  
 M Q A X P R T D U A J S N K L S S S  
 I P E D E S T R I A N S E S I A B P  
 S P O K E S K R A E I L M G T L B P  
 V O E M E D N A T I A S N N Z R L M  
 Y T H E L M E T Z N L A W M K U A A  
 P S C L E E H W E L L S U U W P E P

AIR PRESSURE	GLOVES	PADS	SPOKES
BALANCE	GRIPS	PEDALS	STOP
BICYCLE	HANDLEBARS	PEDESTRIANS	STREET
BIKE LANE	HEADLIGHT	REFLECTORS	TANDEM
BRAKES	HELMET	REPAIR	TRAIL
CHAIN	HORN	RIDE	WHEEL
CHIN STRAP	INNERTUBE	SAFETY	
CYCLIST	MECHANICS	SIDEWALK	
GEAR	MOUNTAIN BIKE	SIGNAL	

# Calendar

## May 2009

- 6 Yard Waste Trimming Collection-no call in required
- 9 Election Day: Polls open from 7:00 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- 10 Mother's Day
- 13 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste Collection — **call in required** (936) 294-5796
- 19 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M
- 20 Yard Waste Trimming Collection -no call in required
- 23 Huntsville Public Library
- 25 Memorial Day: All City Offices and Huntsville Public Library closed
- 27 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste Collection — **call in required** (936) 294-5796

## June 2009

- 2 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M
- 3 Yard Waste Trimming Collection -no call in required
- 10 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste Collection — **call in required** (936) 294-5796
- 16 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M
- 17 Yard Waste Trimming Collection -no call in required
- 21 Father's Day
- 24 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste Collection — **call in required** (936) 294-5796

## July 2009

- 1 Yard Waste Trimming Collection -no call in required
- 3 All City Offices closed and Solid Waste closed in observance of Independence Day
- 4 Independence Day
- 7 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M
- 8 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste Collection — **call in required** (936) 294-5796
- 14 Yard Waste Trimming Collection -no call in required
- 21 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M.
- 22 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste Collection — **call in required** (936) 294-5796
- 29 Yard Waste Trimming Collection -no call in required

Please note: All requests for Heavy Trash pick-up must be made no later than Monday, the week of the pick-up, by noon.

# Police/Fire Statistics

## March 2009

### Police:

- ♦ Calls for service: **4191**
- ♦ Accidents investigated: **82**
- ♦ Animal Control complaints investigated: **116**

### Fire:

- ♦ Calls for service: **120**
- ♦ Main alarm calls: **20**

Visit [www.huntsvilletx.gov](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov)  
for a complete calendar of events.